

We, the board of the YU Alliance, are deeply disappointed by the lack of leadership demonstrated by the student councils' decision to abstain from voting on the status of our club. The YU Alliance took all of the required steps and followed the proper procedures in applying for the club, and should be afforded the same treatment as any other potential club on campus. The student councils are entrusted with representing and serving the entire student body, but they have here abdicated that responsibility.

At the same time, we recognize that the student councils were put under immense pressure from the YU administration. The administration attempting to influence the student councils with regard to this decision is outrageous and inexcusable. YU ensures their students the rights to citizenship, expression, association, and freedom from discrimination. In attempting to interfere with student self-governance and in obstructing a club dedicated to the LGBTQ+ community, they have violated these principles.

LGBTQ+ students at YU are uniquely vulnerable and a club on campus for their free association and expression is essential in securing their safety and well-being. The student councils' decision to abstain has reinforced a hostile environment, further marginalizing the LGBTQ+ community and sending the implicit message that they are not openly welcome at YU.

This is a case of blatant discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. The matter runs afoul of YU's own non-discrimination policy, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, including "the failure to provide equal consideration, acknowledgment or access to educational opportunities to equally qualified individuals" and which "does not have to include intent to harm or be directed at a specific target." The student councils have additionally disregarded the Beren Campus Constitution which specifically prohibits such discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Not allowing an LGBTQ+ club also violates the New York City Human Rights Law and the New York State Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act, both of which bar discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The YU Alliance condemns the student councils' decision to abstain from voting and will take all possible steps — up to and including legal action — to ensure the safety of LGBTQ+ students at Yeshiva University.

We call on the YU administration — to whom the student councils have delegated this decision — to approve The YU Alliance immediately.